Generation Scheme, to SC/ST/OBC Hostels and to Modern Food Industries (I) Ltd., for manufacturing bread and energy foods etc.

Contract Labourers in Bhilai Steel Plant

111. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhilai Steel Plant has the largest concentration of contract labour for the last many years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these labourers are not being paid the fixed minimum wages;

(c) if so, facts thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to ensure the payment of minimum wages to these labourers and also to regularise their services?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Modifying the Procurement Policy in Punjab

112. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proppose to modify the Procurement Policy implemented in the State of Punjab, this year;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the rçasons for classification between fine and supper-fine Paddy crops in Punjab State; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No change is envisaged in the existing procurement policy of the Government for procurement of foodgrains.

(b) The existing procurment policy of the Government ensures the producers a remunerative price for their produce, and has also helped through the years, in ensuring adequate supply of foodgrains to the consumers at reasonable prices thereby creating a sense of food security in the country.

(c) and (d) The classification of paddy is based on length/breadth ratio as per the recommendations of the Balasubramanian Committee appointed by the Government of India in the year 1975. accordingly, paddy/rice are classified in three groups viz. 'common', 'fine' and 'superfine'. These classifications were recommended to the State Governments/UTs for adoption/implementation so as to maintain uniformity in classification throughout the country.

FELICITATION TO THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: hon'ble Members, I have an announcement to make. I would like to give some good news to all of you. In the recent Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Bucharest, our Deputy Chairman, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, has been elected as a members of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I am sure you will join me in congratulating her on her success in this election.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: (Rajasthan) Sir, you have not read out the last sentence which says that she is going to host a dinner for the Members of this House.

PROCLAMATION UNDER ARTICLE 356 OF THE CONSTITUTION IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Sir , I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Proclamation [G.S.R. No. 685(E)], issued by the President on the 18th October,. 1995, under article 356 of the